

State of Library Operations & Services

Impact of COVID-19 on RI Public Libraries (May 2020)



Rhode Island Office of
Library & Information Services

About the survey



Distributed on May 5, 2020



Closed May 12, 2020



Distributed to 48 public library systems



45 public library systems responded

Staffing Impact

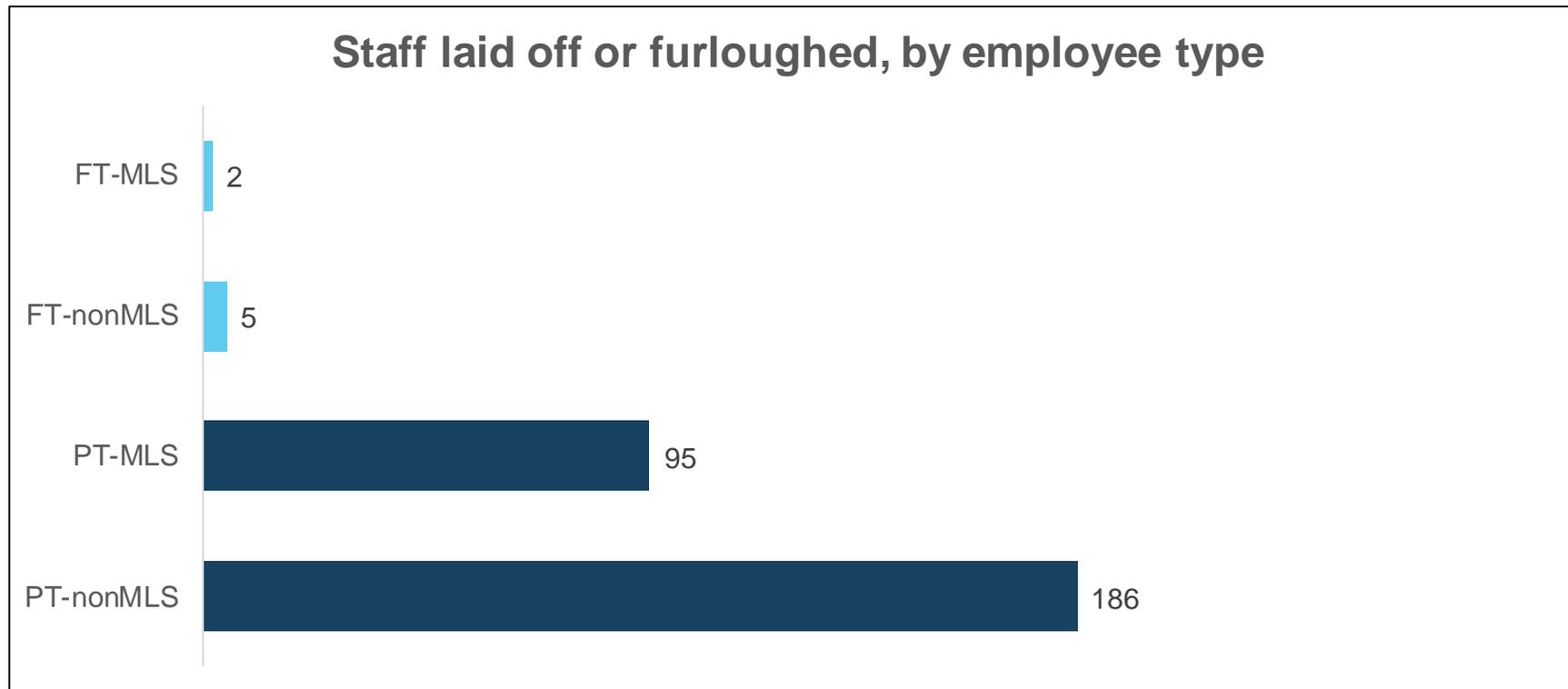
Overview - number of staff furloughed and/or laid off

- ▶ 25 library systems (52%) have had to reduce staff
- ▶ 1,045 individuals work in RI public libraries*
- ▶ 288 individuals (28%) affected by staff reductions

MLS	# OF STAFF	NON-MLS	# OF STAFF
Part-time	95	Part-time	186
Full-time	2	Full-time	5
Total	97	Total	191

*Figure from FY2019 RI Public Library Annual Survey

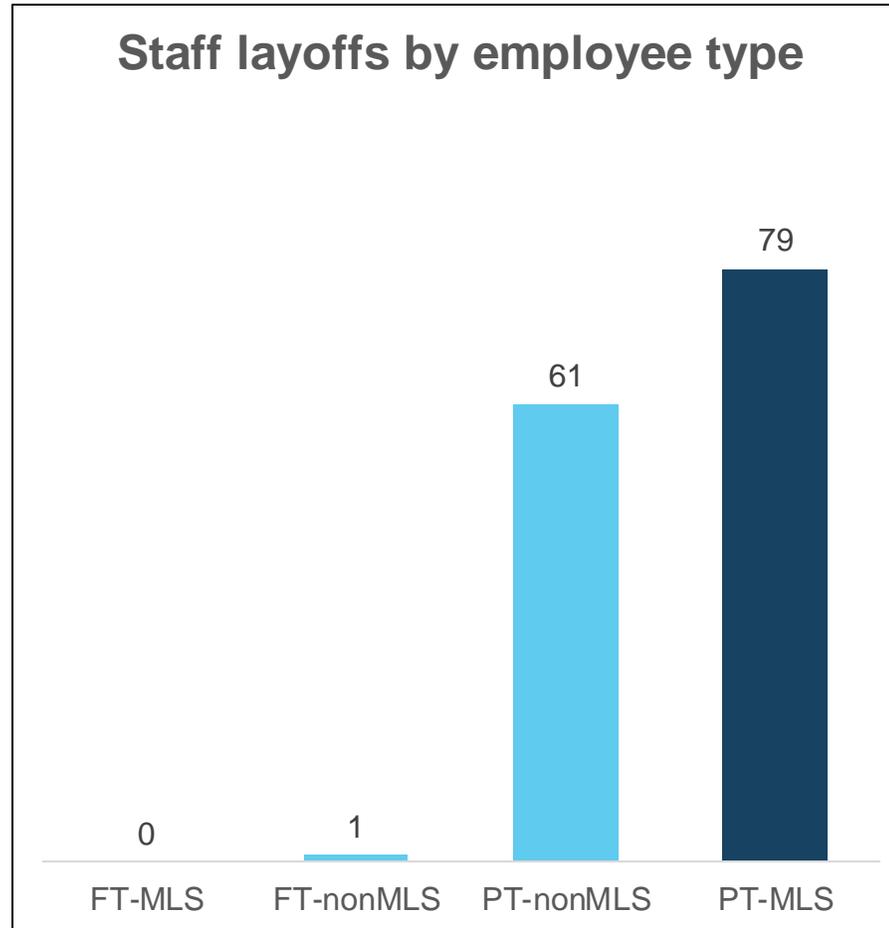
Combined layoff and furlough data



Breakdown of layoff data

141
individuals
laid off

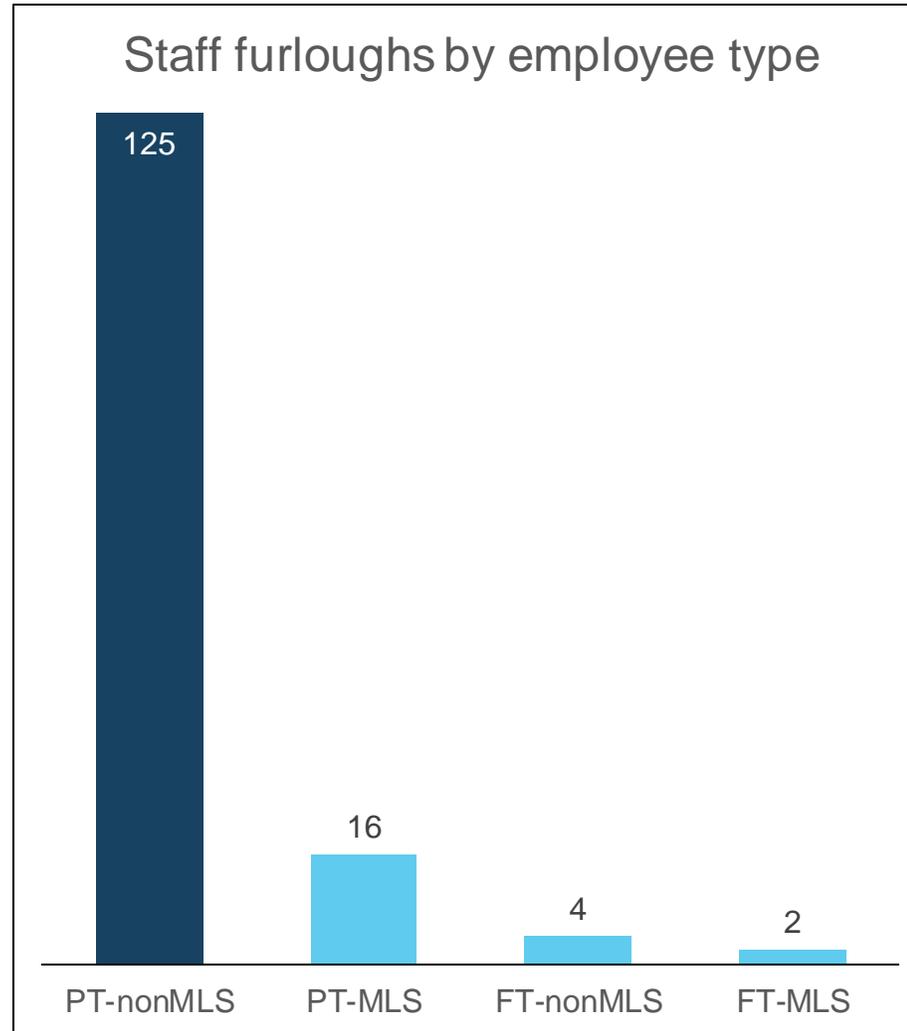
56% of staff
laid off have
MLS



Breakdown of furlough data

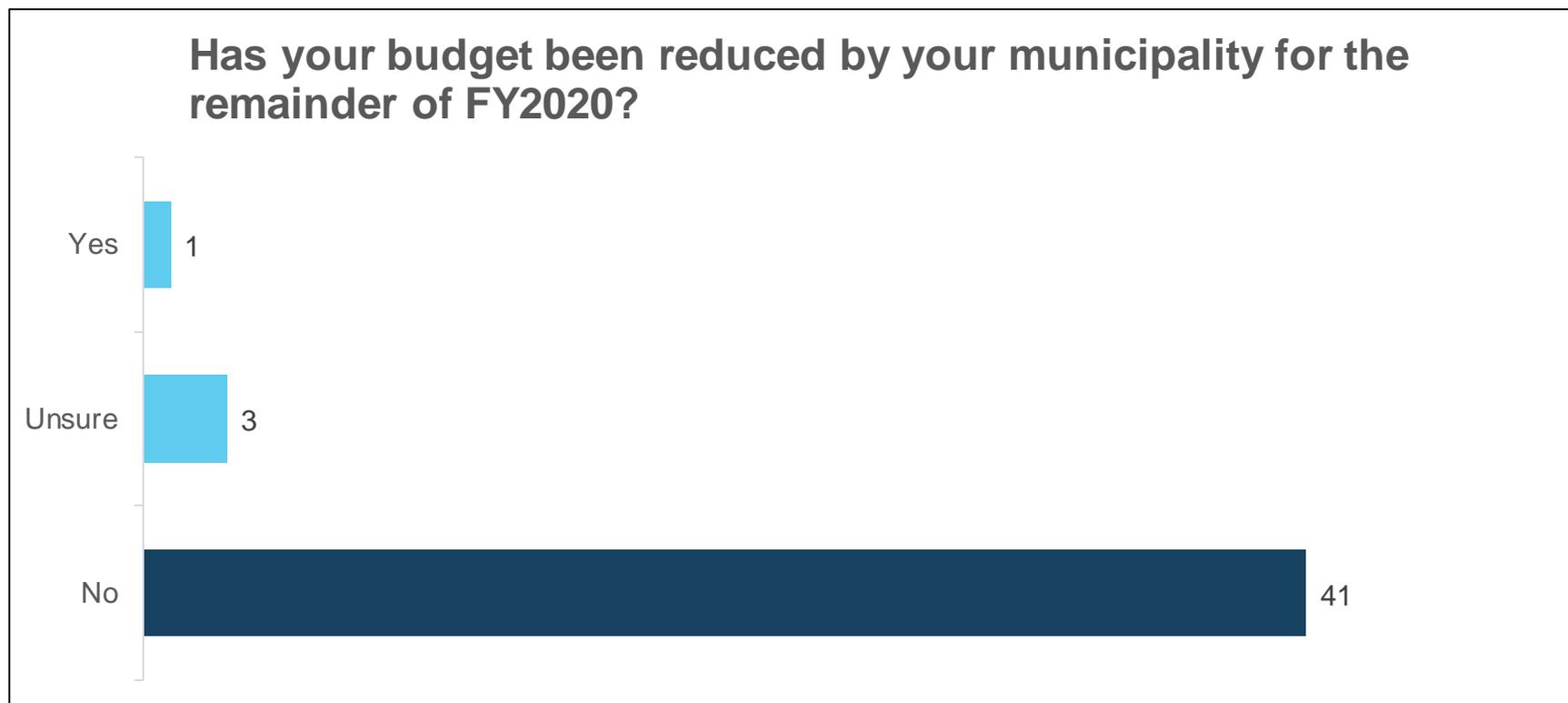
147 staff furloughed or not scheduled

85% of furloughed staff were part-time employees without an MLS

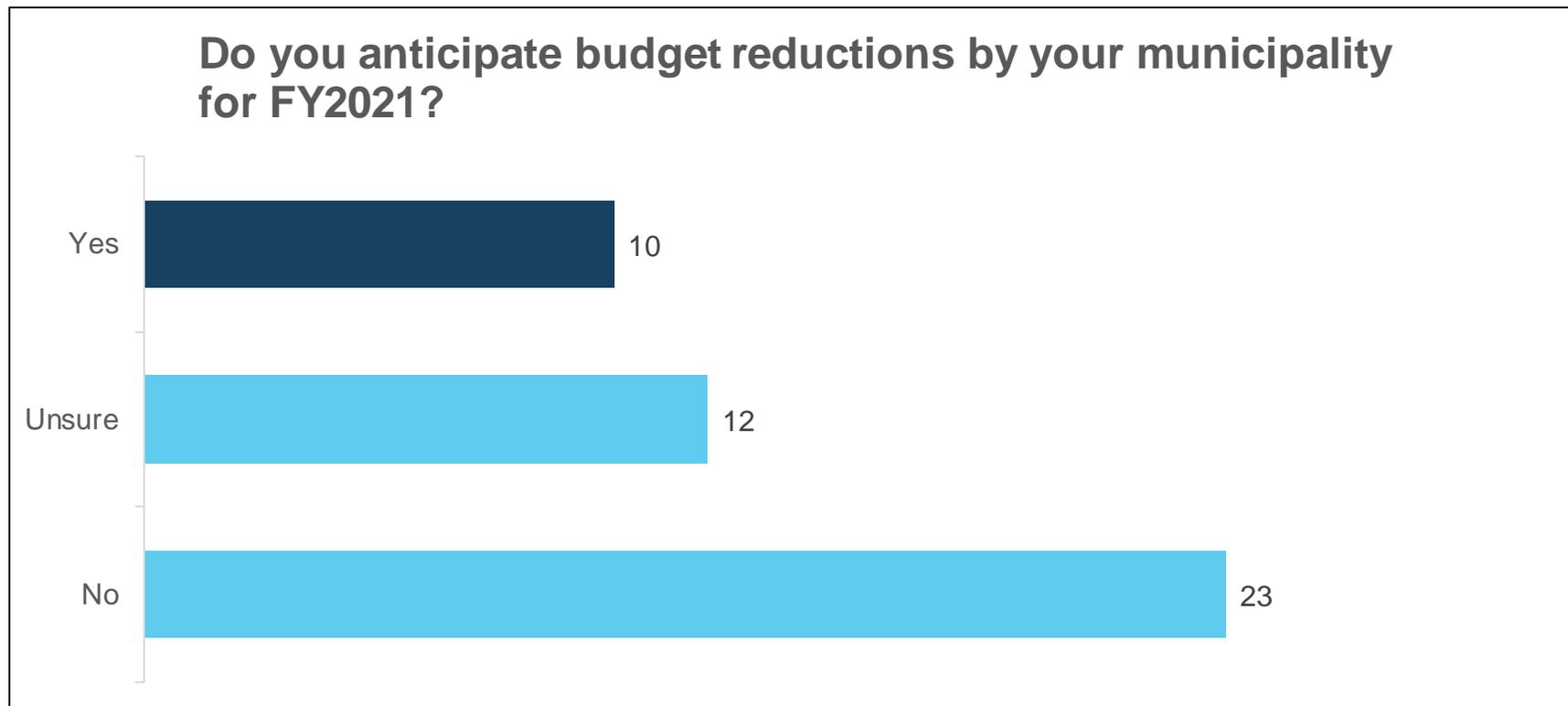


Budget Impact

91% of respondents report budget for remainder of FY20 was not affected

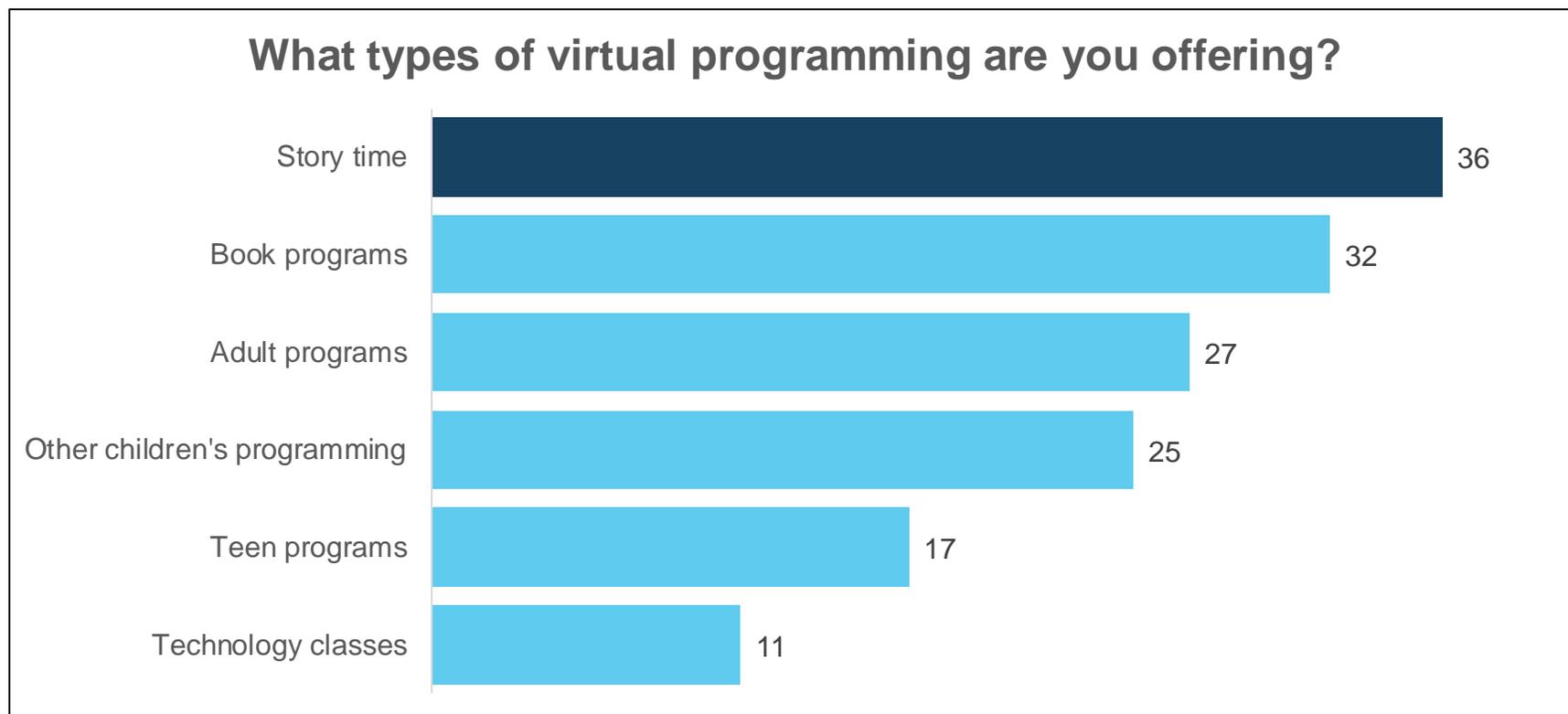


22% of respondents anticipate budget reduction for FY21

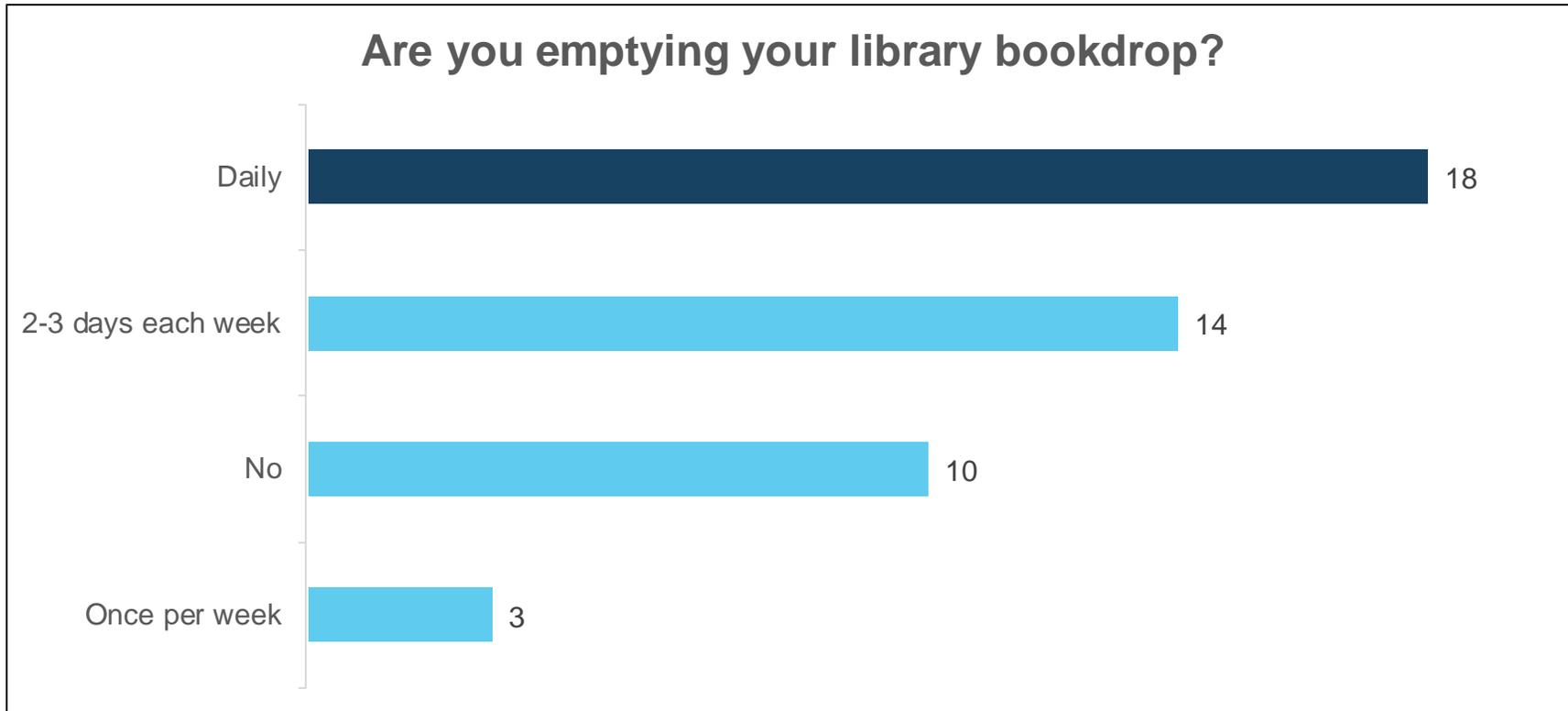


Services Impact

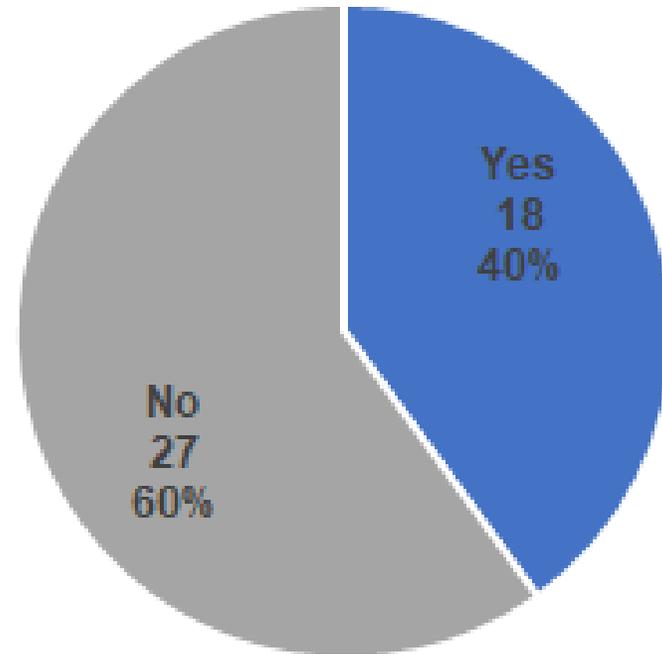
98% of respondents are providing virtual programming



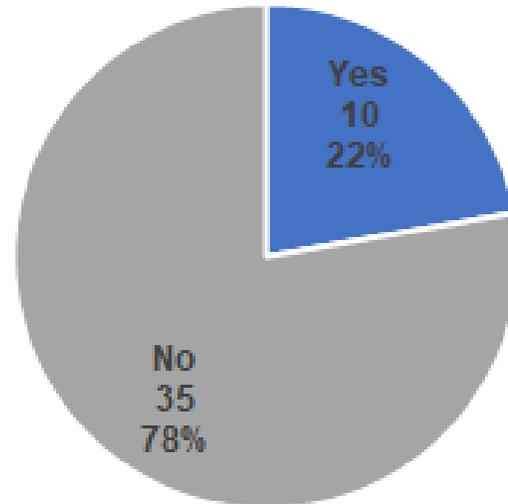
78% of respondents are emptying their bookdrop at least once per week



Are you coordinating a book giveaway, book exchange, or Little Free Library?



Are you delivering books to homebound patrons?

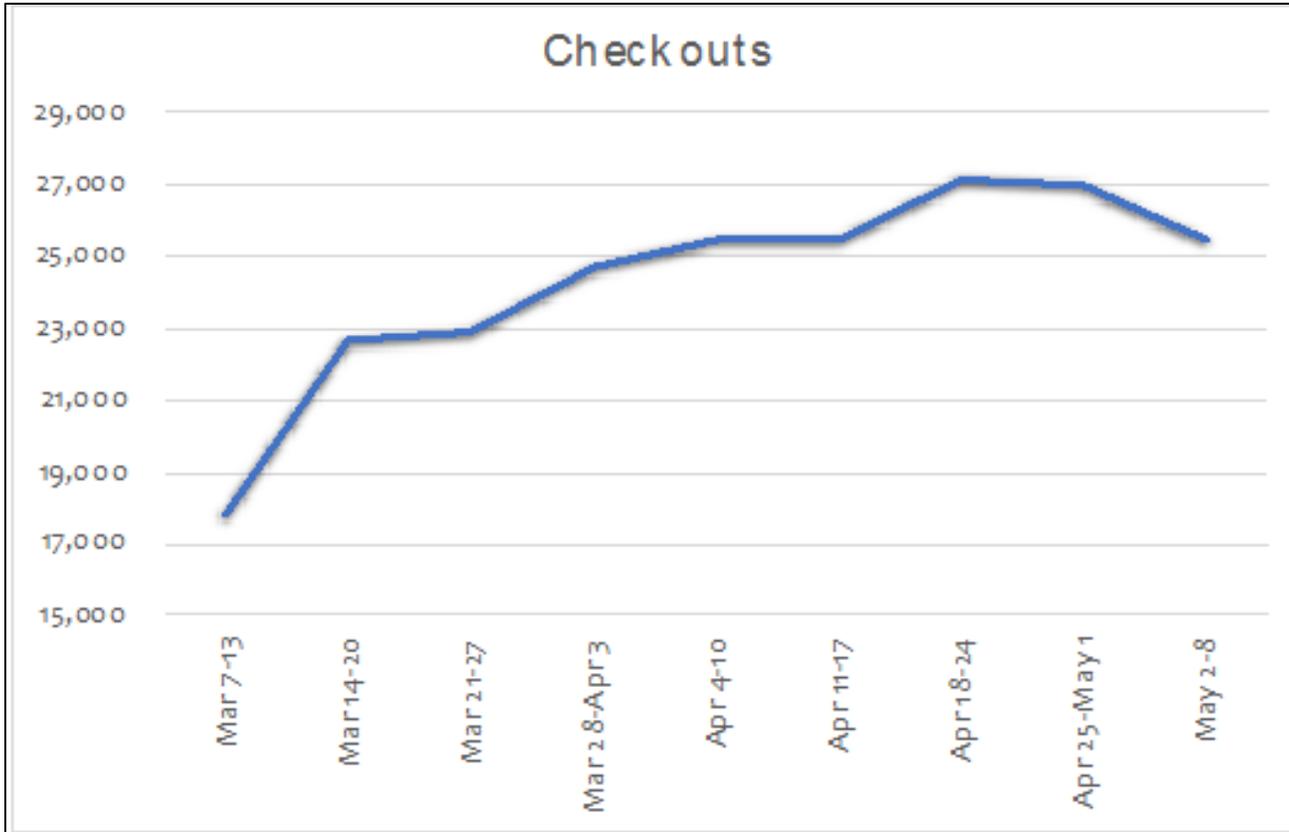


6 libraries indicated interest in or a plan to add this service in near future

Circulation Impact

Data in this section provided by
Ocean State Libraries

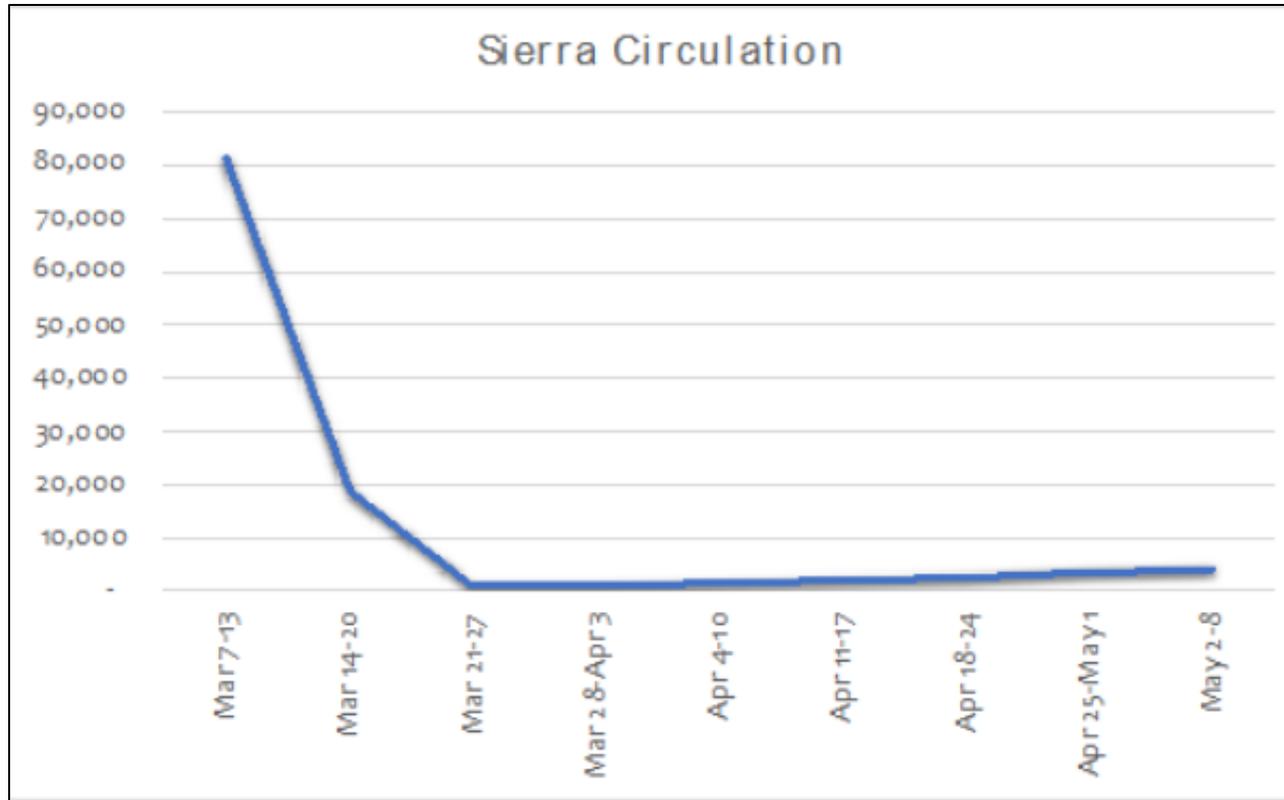
eZone Checkouts



Peak use: eZone checkouts 52% higher week of April 18

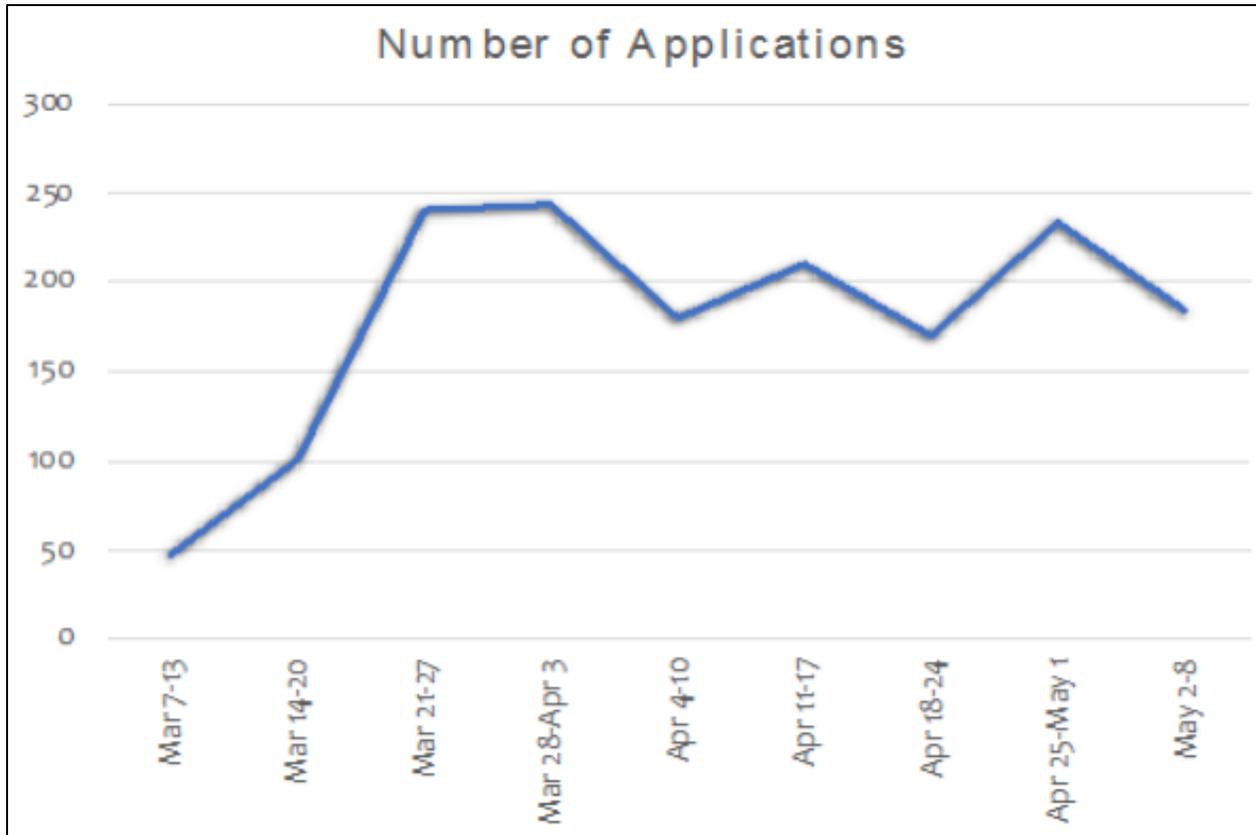
EZone checkouts 43% higher week of May 2

Content downloaded from eZone consists primarily of ebooks, but also includes audiobooks and streaming video.



Physical item checkouts

As of May 8, 5% of the volume prior to library building closures



Online library card signups

Users must have an active library card to download electronic materials from eZone and to access certain other online resources from libraries.

Questions or comments?

Contact Kelly Metzger
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